

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for monitoring data flow in a web application, comprising:  
2 a data collector which collects data about transactions on a server that hosts  
3 components of the web application, the transactions being initiated through an  
4 HTTP request from a client; and  
5 a graphical display which displays the collected data.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data collector comprises a process  
2 which uses hooks in the server to intercept the transactions in order to collect data  
3 about the transactions.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data collector comprises a process  
2 which uses hooks in a server plug-in application that handles the dynamic  
3 components of the web application to intercept the transactions in order to collect  
4 data about the transactions.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a directory for storing the  
2 collected data.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising means for retrieving the data  
2 stored in the directory and updating the graphical display with the data.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 4, further comprising means for deleting data  
2 associated with a selected transaction from the directory.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the graphical display includes a first  
2 display area for displaying a list of transactions processed by the server and a  
3 second display area for displaying the collected data associated with a selected one  
4 of the transactions in the first display area.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data collected by the data collector is  
2 selected from the group consisting of attributes of incoming requests to and  
3 outgoing responses from the server, attributes of incoming cookies to and outgoing  
4 cookies from the server, status of HTTP session between the server and the client  
5 before and after transactions are processed, and attributes of the client.

1 9. A system for monitoring data flow in a web application, comprising:  
2 an HTTP server that hosts the components of the web application;  
3 a data collector which intercepts transactions on the HTTP server in order  
4 to collect data about them, the transactions being initiated through a HTTP request  
5 from a client; and  
6 an application that provides a graphical display for displaying the collected  
7 data.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the data collector comprises a process  
2 which uses hooks in the server to intercept the transactions.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the data collector comprises a process  
2 which uses a server plug-in application that handles the dynamic components of  
3 the web application to intercept the transactions.

1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the data collected is selected from the  
2 group consisting of attributes of incoming requests to and outgoing responses from  
3 the server, attributes of incoming cookies to and outgoing cookies from the server,  
4 status of HTTP session between the server and client before and after the  
5 transactions are processed, and attributes of the client.

1 13. The system of claim 9, further comprising a directory for storing the  
2 collected data.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a mechanism running as part of  
2 the client which updates the graphical display with the data stored in the directory.

1 15. A system for monitoring data flow in a web application, comprising:  
2 an application which starts a server that hosts components of the web  
3 application in a separate process;  
4 a data collector which intercepts transactions on the server and collects data  
5 about the transactions, the transactions being initiated through an HTTP request  
6 from a client; and  
7 a graphical display which displays the collected data, wherein the graphical  
8 display is accessible through the application.

1 16. A system for test-running and debugging a web application, comprising:  
2 a server which hosts components of the web application;  
3 a client which requests resources from the server;  
4 a data collector which intercepts transactions on the server in order to  
5 collect data about the transactions, the transactions being initiated through an  
6 HTTP request from the client; and  
7 a graphical display which displays the collected data.

1 17. The system of claim 16, further comprising an integrated development  
2 environment configured to start the server in a separate process.

1 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the graphical display is accessible from  
2 within the integrated development environment.

1 19. The system of claim 17, wherein the client is accessible from within the  
2 integrated development environment.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the integrated development environment  
2 comprises a mechanism that listens for requests from external processes.

1 21. The system of claim 20, wherein the mechanism that listens for requests  
2 from external processes updates the graphical display in response to a notification  
3 from the data collector.

1 22. A method for monitoring data flow in a web application, comprising:  
2 sending a request to a server that hosts components of the web application;  
3 prior to the server processing the request, intercepting the request to collect  
4 data about the request;  
5 receiving a response from the server;  
6 prior to the server sending the response, intercepting the response to collect  
7 data about the response; and  
8 displaying the collected data in a graphical display.

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